

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. An oral formulation comprising:
 - (a) chlorhexidine or a salt thereof;
 - (b) a zinc salt;
 - (c) masking and/or flavouring agents, including
 (i) a sweetening agent having an immediate but transient effect and (ii) a sweetening agent having a delayed but prolonged effect; and
 - (d) other conventional components of oral formulations.
- 2. An oral formulation according to claim 1, wherein the sweetening agent (i) is saccharin or a salt thereof.
- 3. An oral formulation according to claim 2, comprising up to 0.05% (w/w) of saccharin sodium.
- 4. An oral formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the sweetening agent (ii) is neohesperidine dihydrochalcone.
- 5. An oral formulation according to claim 4, comprising up to 0.1% (w/w) of neohesperidine dihydrochalcone.
- 6. An oral formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 5, comprising 0.1 to 1.0% (w/w) of chlorhexidine or a salt thereof.
- 7. An oral formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 6, comprising 0.1 to 1.0% (w/w) of the zinc salt.
- 8. An oral formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 7, comprising one or more gluconate salt(s).

- An oral formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the zinc salt is zinc gluconate.
- 10. An oral formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the chlorhexidine salt is chlorhexidine digluconate.
- 11. An oral formulation according to claim 10, comprising about 0.6% (w/w) of chlorhexidine digluconate.
- 12. An oral formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the chlorhexidine salt is chlorhexidine diacetate.
- 13. An oral formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 12, further comprising additional masking and/or flavouring agents selected from flavouring oils and methyl salicylate.
- 14. An oral formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 13, comprising 0.1 to 5% (w/w) of said masking and/or flavouring agents.
- 15. An oral formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 14, comprising components (d) selected from the group consisting of: fluoride materials, dentally acceptable abrasive materials, surfactants, thickeners, gelling agents, humectants, alcohol and water.
- 16. An oral formulation according to claim 15, wherein said surfactants are selected from non-ionic and zwitterionic surfactants.
- 17. An oral formulation according to claim 16, wherein said non-ionic surfactants are macrogol ethers.

- 18. An oral formulation according to claim 16 or claim 17, wherein said zwitterionic surfactants are selected from the group consisting of betaines and alkylamido alkyl amines.
- 19. An oral formulation according to any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein said surfactants comprise a combination of non-ionic and zwitterionic surfactants.
- 20. An oral formulation according to claim 19, wherein said surfactants comprise a combination of a macrogol ether and cocamidopropyl betaine.
- 21. An oral formulation according to claim 19 or claim 20, wherein the ratio of the non-ionic surfactant(s) to the zwitterionic surfactant(s) is about 2.4:1 by weight.
- 22. An oral formulation according to any one of claims 16 to 21, comprising 0.1 to 10% (w/w) of said surfactants.
- 23. An oral formulation according to claim 22, comprising about 1.7% (w/w) of said surfactants.
- 24. An oral formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 23, being a toothpaste, a dentifrice, mouthwash, chewing gum or a lozenge.